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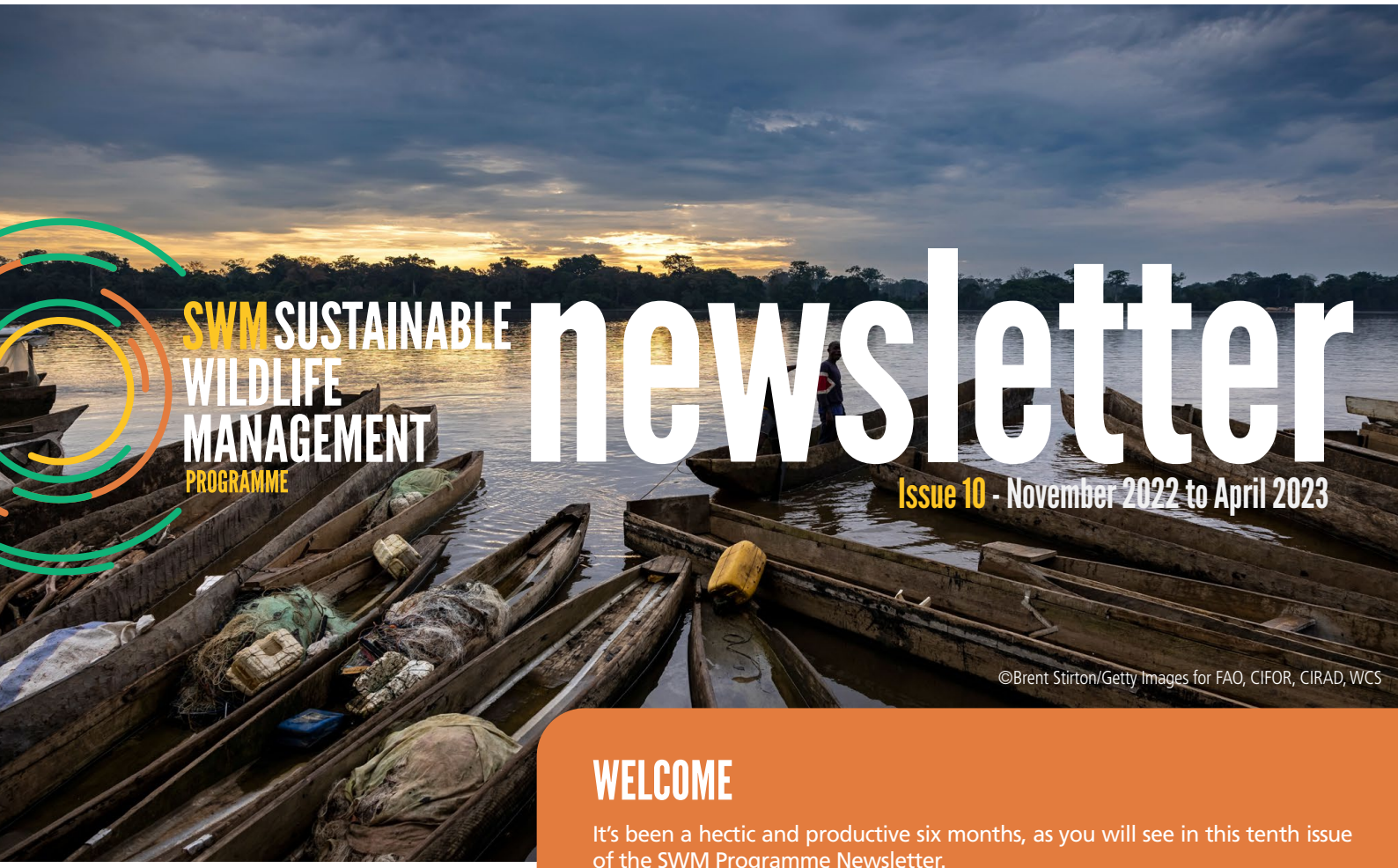

SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

newsletter

Issue 10 - November 2022 to April 2023

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WELCOME

It's been a hectic and productive six months, as you will see in this tenth issue of the SWM Programme Newsletter.

During this period, I have been fortunate to meet (in person!) many of our donors, government representatives and site coordinators. Speaking with them reminds me of what a unique initiative this is; it is a programme that brings together many dedicated and brilliant people who are all united by a determination to achieve sustainable hunting and wildlife management through practical and long-lasting solutions.

One recurring theme in our discussions has been the desire for 'excellence'. For example, excellence in our technical work, excellence in innovating, excellence in policy and legal support, and excellence in our team culture. My desire is that this spirit continue through all our activities and that it be transmitted through the many publications, scientific papers and impact stories we will produce this year.

You will find examples of excellence in this issue of the Newsletter, including highlights from the project sites, and short articles on our behaviour change campaigns and field work in Guyana. In this issue, we are also very pleased to share an 'SWM Talks' by Robert Nasi, Director General at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Hubert Boulet
SWM Programme Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHTS

Summarized below are the highlights from each SWM Programme site for the period November 2022 to April 2023. They build on the highlights in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eight and ninth SWM Programme Newsletters.

Congo - Ouesso basin

The Kabo sustainable hunting governance group was created, and several game-based awareness sessions were conducted. The study on the bat value chain was finalized and completed with the collection of 250 biological samples. In addition, one hundred groups of three households received support to start microenterprises.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ituri landscape

With our local partner Village Enterprise, around 100 community groups have received funding to create micro-enterprises. The process to update the Directives on access to natural resources began, which will allow local communities to use and co-manage certain areas of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve for agriculture or hunting.

Gabon - Mulundu Department

Bémbicani community drafted their first sustainable hunting and wildlife management plan and submitted it for administrative approval. They are now applying for community forest designation, which recognizes their wildlife rights on ancestral lands. Two other communities are drafting management plans with support from the Programme.

Guyana - Rupununi Savannahs

The first wild meat workshop with coastal traders took place to discuss trends in the wildmeat sector. The recently created One Health Platform held a workshop to prioritize zoonotic diseases and wild meat. Village leaders across South and North Rupununi have successfully developed a regional river turtle management plan.

Papua New Guinea - Bismarck Forest Corridor

Boundary mapping, a key step for natural resources management through Conservation Deeds, has progressed in two communities. Where the Deed is already signed, the focus is on supporting its implementation by training community rangers (GPS, data collection using SMART) and establishing a baseline of wildlife abundance with camera traps.

Madagascar - Makira landscape

Five transfer contracts for community management have been renewed and now include sustainable hunting aspects. Wildlife surveys using camera traps and small mammal traps have begun. Community members involved in the poultry and fish farming activities had the opportunity to participate in educational exchange visits.

Sahelian Wetlands Site - RESSOURCE Project

Chad, Egypt, Mali, Senegal and Sudan

The main results and achievements of the project were presented and appreciated at several international events APAC-IUCN, MOP-8 AEWA, COP-14 Ramsar, PAOC-15 and COP-15 CBD. The development of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) RESSOURCE modules and species identification sheets continues. The preparation of phase 2 is underway.

Zambia and Zimbabwe - KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area

In Zambia, with support from the SWM Programme, the MIZE Community Conservancy (MiCC) in the Nyawa Chiefdom was officially registered with the Patents and Companies Registration Agency. In Zimbabwe, three camps were created in the planned Mucheni Community Conservancy for use by Resource Monitors during day and night patrols.

Botswana and Namibia - Community Conservancy project

In Botswana, the team supported community meetings gathering residents from Habu and two nearby villages also wishing to establish a community conservancy (CC). The traditional authorities sent a letter to the district council, requesting a multi-purpose land use designation for the area – a critical step for the future CC.

SPECIAL FOCUS - BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS

One SWM Programme objective is to reduce demand for unsustainable wild meat (including protected and vulnerable species) and, where wild meat is not a necessity, to do so by changing consumption behaviour. Comprehensive consumption surveys have been carried out and used to inform locally relevant interventions, including the design of behaviour change campaigns at selected sites, for example:

- **Congo:** A campaign is being prepared to promote local poultry consumption in the town of Ouesso as a substitute to wild meat consumption.
- **Guyana:** The "We love our Rupununi wild" campaign encourages wildlife protection and respect for village rules on wildlife use, and the "Local meat you can't beat" campaign encourages consumption of locally farmed meat.
- **Madagascar:** A campaign is being piloted to encourage local fish and poultry farming and consumption, and the Breakfast Programme is raising awareness about nutrition and wildlife conservation.

COUNTRY STORY - GUYANA

The SWM Programme team in Guyana has made significant and tangible progress through daily engagement and collaboration with communities, government institutions and local partners in the Rupununi region.

Dr Nathalie van Vliet, the site coordinator in Guyana, explains that "communities are involved in wildlife management, with ten communities participating in the North Rupununi Fisheries Management Plan, 15 communities involved in the recently developed River Turtle Management Plan and 13 communities being part of the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan". With support from the SWM Programme, she further explains that "conservation zones have been identified, for example, giant anteater conservation zones in four communities and the red siskin community conservation and management zones in five communities. Environmental education has played a major role in changing behaviours and engaging children and adults in conservation work."

Dr Nathalie van Vliet added, "We think our approach is working well because we built our SWM Programme activities around the motivations and concerns of existing organizations and local communities. Additionally, we valued local knowledge and have encouraged community interest in conservation and science."

Empowering young people to take decisions about their lands and resources is a key part of the SWM Programme in Guyana.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Over 7 000 tweets with the #SWMProgramme hashtag have reached over 30 million people since mid-2019

Our English YouTube playlist now has 48 training, project and social media videos

EVENTS CORNER

Wild meat and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

13 December 2022

The SWM Programme team organized a successful high-level side event at the Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) on how the initiative is contributing to CBD Decision 14/7 on sustainable wildlife management. Click here to read the story about the side event.

High-level speakers and panellists after the SWM Programme side event.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14)

9 November 2022

The Ressource Project held a well-attended side event (click here to see the agenda) at the Ramsar COP14 to share results on (i) promoting waterlily cultivation in the Senegal Delta; (ii) supporting the designation of the 4th Sudanese Ramsar site; and (iii) developing a MOOC on African waterbirds and wetlands.

Eugenio Sartoretto (FAO) presenting the legal analysis available on the country legal hubs.

Walk on the wild side: A virtual journey around the SWM Programme

15 September 2022

Our 3D photographic and video exhibition (click here to visit the exhibition) was launched at the Global Landscape Forum – Africa digital conference, which attracted considerable media interest, and included an engaging talk by Brent Stirton, a contributing National Geographic photographer.

FROM THE FIELD

The SWM Programme Zambia team and His Royal Highness Chief Nyawa celebrate the formal registration of the MIZE Community Conservancy (MiCC), which spans 53 500 hectares in Kazungula District, Southern Province of Zambia.

NEWSROOM

Recent SWM Programme news items include:

- FAO multimedia story, "Bringing water lilies back into nature and back to the Senegalese cuisine" (click here)
- CIFOR Forest News, "How to balance the needs of both humans and wildlife?" (click here)
- CIRAD podcast, La chasse, une question de survie ? - Faire vivre la biodiversité ("Hunting, a question of survival? - Bringing biodiversity to life") (click here in French only)
- Science Africa, "Bushmeat poaching, sustainable management of wildlife vital" (click here)
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) article, "Successful Collaboration with AEWA: RESSOURCE Project to Sustain Achievements in the Sahel Region" (click here)
- CIFOR Forest News, "Empowering women through sustainable wildlife management: Flora Gomes' story" (click here)
- WCS news story, "Improving food safety and conservation: A series of training videos for poultry farmers" (click here)
- CIRAD news article, "Zambia: Fruitful collaboration between the communities and the government" (click here)
- Arte TV, "Gabon : chasseurs de virus" ("Gabon: Virus hunters") (click here in French only)
- CIRAD news story, "The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme and Zambia's Nyawa community will work together for a sustainable future" (click here)

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) 23–27 July 2023 https://conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2023
- COP14 to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 23–28 October 2023 https://www.cms.int/en/news/2022021-cms-cop14-dates-venue-and-deadlines

SWM TALKS

Robert Nasi,

Director General, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

I have been involved in the SWM Programme from its conception. This initiative has an important role to play as we work towards a sustainable and food-secure world for all. Large, complex problems like the unsustainable use of wildlife require strategic, actionable and scalable solutions. Innovations, built on evidence from applied science and local knowledge, are urgently needed if we are to influence, catalyse and inspire change at the national and global levels.

The SWM Programme side event in December 2022 at the COP15 showcased many such solutions emerging from the field in the 15 participating countries (see How to balance the needs of both humans and wildlife?). It's important to reiterate that the tools and approaches being developed by the SWM Programme are needed more than ever by practitioners and governments as they implement CBD Decision 14/7 on sustainable wildlife management and guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector.

Several of the 23 targets agreed in the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are related to the work of the SWM Programme. My hope in 2023 is that we can demonstrate clearly and convincingly how the initiative concretely contributes to these targets, and the related Sustainable Development Goals. The four partners will then be in a solid position to expand the initiative's impact in the coming years and through to 2030.

FIND OUT MORE

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